

# Product Fact Sheet

## Minnesota Justice Information Services

# LICENSE PLATE RECOGNITION

The deployment of License Plate Recognition (LPR) technology at law enforcement agencies across the nation has directly led to improved overall public safety. Much attention has been focused on the recovery of stolen vehicles, but LPR technology has demonstrated many more benefits to law enforcement agencies and the residents of the communities they serve.

## How does License Plate Recognition Work?

LPR works by capturing digital license plate images as they pass a camera, whether mobile or fixed. The plates are automatically cross-checked in real time against a downloaded file of plate numbers from the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) and possibly other local information to identify vehicles of interest. License plate matches are reported instantly, allowing the officer to take appropriate action after verifying the information.

Source	Data Category
FBI Hot Files	Stolen Vehicle
"	Stolen License Plate
"	Wanted Person
"	Canadian Police Information Center (CPIC) Data
"	Protection Order
"	Missing Person
"	Violent Gang and Terrorist Organization
"	Supervised Release
"	Convicted Sexual Offender Registry
"	Immigration Violator Files
MN BCA Hot Files	KOPS
"	MN Warrants
DVS Files	Suspended Drivers Licenses
"	Revoked Drivers Licenses
"	Cancelled Drivers Licenses
"	Disqualified Drivers Licenses

The BCA provides a site where a "license plate" data file is made available to authorized MN law enforcement agencies. This file is updated twice daily and available for access at 4:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., 7 days a week. It contains specific data from select FBI NCIC Hot File records from all 50 states plus the District of Columbia and Canada, specific data from select MN Hot File records and MN Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) data on "withdrawals" (revoked, suspended, canceled and disqualified licenses). On average, the file consists of 400,000 records; the source and data categories are summarized in the table to the left.

## What is the BCA's Role in Implementing LPR?

The BCA provides download access to the MN LP Data File (described above). In addition, the BCA's Service Desk provides support for questions regarding access to or contents of the download file.